

Expanding Reading Fun for you and your child

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

Here are some ideas for expanding your child's enjoyment of books and reading. By interacting with books in different ways-- retelling the story, imagining different outcomes, using art and song-- your child uses multiple intelligences to expand their learning experience. Some suggested activities are best for younger, some for older children-- and some can be used many times, expanding the ideas as your child grows. Have fun, try our suggestions or your own ideas and enjoy the time with your child!

Third Grade

Children enjoy reading non-fiction to learn "real things" about subjects they're curious about or fascinated by. From dinosaurs to weather, bridges to volcanoes, their real world is full of amazing real stories. Enjoy helping them explore and expand these new interests through the 25 new non-fiction books they'll read this year-- and experience some real fun together with these extended learning activities.

Scavenger Hunt Around a Book: Look through a nonfiction book with your child. See if they can find the glossary, table of contents, index, maps, charts, sidebars, illustrations, recipes, suggested activities, further reading. Ask your child to explain what they think these parts of a non-fiction book are. Can they find anything else not listed? What is it and how is it used?

Just the Facts: Choose one of the non-fiction books your child has read. Read it yourself and then ask to "interview" your child about the subject. Allow your child to use the book to find the answers-- and help if necessary. Enjoy asking questions and finding the answers together. Then, let your child interview you!

What Does This Mean to Me: Help your child think about the connections (sometimes called "text-to-self-connections") to themselves in a non-fiction book they've read. Is the book about a big building? Ask how it is like other buildings they are familiar with. How is it different? Where have you seen buildings like the one in the book? What new thing did you learn?

Mapmaking: Ask your child to choose a non-fiction book about a real place. Can they draw a map of the book's setting? Where do the characters live? Can they mark important things on the map-- where people live, roads, land and water masses? Ask them to tell you about the map and applaud their work. Demonstrate how to make a "key" for their map and ask for them to complete it. Work together if your child would like your help.

New Words: Ask your child to choose a non-fiction book they've recently read. Can they find 5-10 new words in that book? Talk about the new words and their meaning, use, etc. Some non-fiction books have a glossary in the back of the book. See if this book has one and look up the words. If not, use a dictionary. When you know the new words, try them in different sentences.

From Non-Fiction to Fiction: Ask your child to choose a non-fiction book they've recently read. Can they think of any fiction stories that include facts from this book? (Example: non-fiction books about dinosaurs have information that was used to write 'How do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight') Ask them if they can make up a story using some facts from this book.

Tell Me the Story: Ask your child to choose a non-fiction book they've recently read. Ask your child to retell the information in the book to you. This shows what information your child understands (comprehension) and what was most important to them.